

To the Right Honorable,
THE
LORDS
In PARLIAMENT assembled:

The humble Petition of divers ancient Tenants of Land,
parcel of the Patrimony of the Church of England;

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners with most hearty thanks to Almighty God for restoring the King to his Throne, and the profession of the Gospel, to decency and order, do sincerely rejoice to see the most Ancient and most Apostolical Government of the Church-Episcopacy brought again in this Nation; for reduction whereof many of your Petitioners have in the late defections hazarded their Lives in Arms, and lost their Fortunes in Sequestrations, &c. hoping that those Landlords whose Revenues they contended to secure or restore, would use your Petitioners with such kindness at least, as their Predecessors generally afforded our Ancestors, who had no other pretences to their favor, but the continuance of their Tenancies.

That some of your Petitioners, to preserve their Tenancies, purchased from the late Usurper the Reversion of their own Tenements, to preserve the Churches Patrimony from Devastation, and themselves from the insolent Domination of sacrilegious Landlords; Others of them not satisfied in the justness thereof, chose any Laws rather than of the Testimony of a good Conscience, yet of them both His Most Gracious Majesty hath been pleased to have so tender a regard, That in his Declaration from Breda, He hath engaged His Royal Word for the Satisfaction of the one, and hath expressly recommended the other to his Grace, the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, to see the old Tenants of the Church favourably dealt with.

That in further fence of the Loyalty and Fidelity of your Petitioners, and most divine goodness to all His Subjects, His Sacred Majesty hath Commissioned many most Honorable Lords and other Worthy personages, to mediate between the Church and the Ancient Tenants, and where their Labors have proved ineffectual, hath Himself taken much pains, though without that exemplary success, as was justly expected from the pattern of Loyalty and Obedience.

Wherefore they most humbly pray, That your Honors will be pleased to add to the Power of the said Lords, and other Commissioners in this behalf, and that by Act of Parliament, the Order of His Most Gracious Majesty, the Supreme Head of the Church, and His Privy-Council, may be final to all parties, and they thereby capable to negotiate therein.

And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.